Note on Kennedy 2/25/65 Reply to U Thant: It is unclear in what way an impartial person would regard as a basis of propaganda language - The U.S. is all right, the USSR deserving of [illegible] criticism, U Thant doesn't understand. By what [illegible] Khrushchev reply is reasonable & the terms the basis for U Thant's offer / ~~letter~~ (Abel 166-7) It may be presumed Pres. Johnson & planned & understood, but of the text, Pres. had nothing to lose & all to gain

The administration (& Abel) regarded this as "keeping the pressure on" - but one wonders whether Pres. getting so firmly committed to use of Thor-Jupiter from withdrawal of Polaris that he left himself no alternative other than nuclear war. When the enormity of this dawned upon him, he had no choice but to accept any reasonable proposition from U Thant.